

BIG STRIKE AT JEROME.

Nearly One Thousand Employees of the United Verde Mine Demand Shorter Hours of Work.

A big strike is reported at Jerome. It is not the kind of a strike that gladdens the heart of the miner in the way of a discovery of rich ore, but a labor strike in which upwards of 1,000 men demand that shorter hours of work constitute a day.

About a year ago a miners' union was formed, encouraged by Senator Clark, who granted the miners an eight-hour day, and the fact was heralded from one end of the land to the other as an act showing the great love and magnanimity which Senator Clark had for his employees. There are only about sixty or seventy miners employed in the mine, while there are several hundred employed above ground, working in and around the smelter and at the roast heaps. While the underground employees have been enjoying their eight-hour day those above ground have been putting in from ten to twelve hours, much of the work being around the furnaces, where it is extremely warm and the work very trying.

Recently these employees got together in conference and decided to ask Senator Clark, on his next visit to the mine, to extend his magnanimity to the men above ground and reduce their working day to eight hours. The opportunity presented itself last Saturday, when a delegation visited the senator and presented their request to him. Mr. Clark had evidently been advised previously of the proposed action, as he did not take the matter under advisement, but gave an immediate and emphatic answer, declining to accede to their demands. According to a previous agreement the men all went on a strike.

The strike includes the engineers and it is stated all employees who work above ground.

Senator Clark is quoted as saying: "Rather than accede to the demands of the strikers I will see Jerome grow up in grass." The men express a determination to win their fight, while Senator Clark also apparently expects the struggle to be prolonged. Superintendent Giroux left for the East on Sunday and Senator Clark was expected to leave to-day.

Very many of the employees involved are only temporary employees, as they come and go constantly, nearly one-third of the entire number changing every month. Many of the men are already preparing to leave the place.

Should the close-down continue for any length of time it would prove a serious blow to the town of Jerome, as the operation of the United Verde mine and smelter is the principal support of the town. This is the first labor trouble of any magnitude that has ever occurred in the camp, the relations heretofore existing between Senator Clark and his employees being most amicable.—Journal-Miner.

A Mysterious Character.

Word is received from Signal this week to the effect that Mrs. L. Coit, a county pensioner for the last ten years, had her house and belongings destroyed by fire last Sunday. The origin of the fire is not known, but it is thought the old lady set fire to the place herself in a momentary aberration of mind, as she is very old and quite childish.

Mrs. Coit claims to be 115 years old—born on the 4th of July, 1786—and that she knew General Washington in her early childhood. Very little is known of her antecedents. She came to Mohave county about twenty-five years ago, and until she became too feeble to work, supported herself by washing. No one appears to know anything about

this mysterious old woman and no letters have ever come to her during her life in Arizona by which one might connect her with the outside world. She possessed trunks full of beautiful clothes—silks, satins and matchless laces, relics of her life before coming here, but what that life was is shrouded in mystery. She claims relationship with the aristocratic Coits of New York and San Francisco. The authorities should take charge of Mrs. Coit and remove her from Signal to a place where she can be properly cared for in her old age. For a number of years past her mind has been somewhat cloudy and she should be taken care of.—Kingman Arrow.

The Moqui Snake Dance.

In our last issue the date of the annual Moqui snake dance was given as August 16. Later advices from the chief of the snake order say that the preparations for the dance will commence on August 16 and continue each day until August 24, and on that day the weird ceremonial dance of the snake order will take place.

The ceremony is the most primitive of any among the aborigines, and it has attracted the attention of about all the scientific men of the world, and the dance has been attended by scientific representatives of nearly every European nation. So many descriptions of the Moqui ceremony have been written that the reading world is familiar with the subject, yet each year sees an increase in the number of visitors to witness the strange ceremonies of the snake dance, which lasts at the most but a couple of hours.

The dance this year is an important one and will be held at the village of Walpi, on the eastern side of the mesa. A number of Flagstaff people intend attending the dance.

Electrical Storm.

George Hochderffer, who was in this week from the Hart ranch, reports a severe electrical storm in that neighborhood. During the storm Mr. Hochderffer was within a few yards of a tree which was struck. He first saw the flash of lightning apparently about three quarters of a mile away, coming through a pass in the mountains. It looked like a huge ball of fire, and it bounded along close to the earth. It seemed to be coming straight for Mr. Hochderffer, but luckily for him the tree intervened and received the shock. The lightning struck the tree about fifty feet up, and tore a jagged groove, circling around the trunk, from that point to the root, where it tore a hole in the ground three feet deep.

A Mexican shepherd was sitting under a tree a short distance away. The shepherd noticed that his sheep were bunching around the trees for shelter, and got up to scatter them. He had not gone a dozen steps when lightning struck the tree under which he had been sitting, snapping it off four feet from the ground. Although the tree was four feet in diameter, Mr. Hochderffer says there was not a piece of the tree left as large as a man's body.

They Know Where It Is Cool.

The Phoenix Gazette of Tuesday has the following personals:

Mrs. R. Rogers left on this morning's train for Flagstaff.

F. S. Ferris went to Flagstaff this morning over the Santa Fe route.

Mrs. M. Gibbons left for Flagstaff this morning, where she will spend the summer.

Mr. Bartholomew was a passenger this morning for Flagstaff over the northern line.

Justus Goebel and William Goebel were passengers for Flagstaff on the Santa Fe this morning.

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